Non-functioning of telephones in Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh

1581. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints in writing from the telephone subscribers and citizens of Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh regarding non-functioning and wrong billings of telephone during the year 1992-93;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One complaint regarding non-functioning of Bulandshahar telephone exchange was received from the Hon'ble M. P. Chowdhry Hari Singh and 85 complaints regarding wrong billings of telephones were received in 1992-93.

(c) (i) Bulandshahar Strowger Exchange is proposal to be replaced by electronic exchange within a month.

(ii) Out of 85 complaints, 5 have been settled. 25 cases have been granted interim relief. The balance are under investigation.

Replacement of old Telephone Exchange in Electronic Exchanges

1582. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN:

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone exchanges at Batala, Samarala and Fazilka in Punjab and at Chalan in Maharashtra are proposed to be replaced by Electronic Exchange;

(b) if so, by when these were originally planned to be commissioned;

(c) whether these have actually been commissioned, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when these would be actually commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) (i) Batala—Yes Sir.

(ii) Samarala—Yes, Sir.

(iii) Fazilka—Yes, Sir.

(iv) Chalan—at present there is no telepsone exchange existing.

(b) —Batala—March, 92

—Samarala—March, 93

—Fazilka—March, 94

—Chalan—No telephone exchange existing.

(c) Batala exchange has not been commissioned as originally planned due to local sewerage problems, holding up the laying of cable ducts.

—Samarala—There is no delay commissioning targetted as originally planned.

—Fazilka—There is no delay, commissioning targetted as originally planned.

—Chalan—No telephone exchange existing.

(d) Planned to be commissioned

Batala by March, 93

Samarala by March, 93

Fazilka by March, 94

Chalan—No telephone exchange existing.

Saving Bank Account Deposit in Post Offices in Rampurhat, West Bengal

1583. SHRI VISHNUKANT SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of account holders in the Main Post Office and the sub-post offices in Rampurhat sub-division of West Bengal;

(b) what is the rate of interest paid on the post office savings account deposits in this sub-division;

(c) if the time lag is more than two months from the day the interest is payable, whether Government pays additional interest for the delay in liquidity of the interest payable to the depositors; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to expedite the process of payment of interest annually ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The total no. of account holders in the Main PO and the Sub POs in Rampurhat Sub Division of West Bengal is 47000.

(b) The rate of interest paid on the PO savings account deposits in this Division as elsewhere in the country is 5½% p.a.

(c) and (d) The interest is paid on the lowest balance at credit of a savings account between the close of the 10th day and the end of the month and such interest is calculated and credited in savings account at the end of each year. The question of delayed payment of interest therefore does not arise.

Microwave Tower in the Districts of Ferozepore and Faridkot

1584. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that there was a proposal to replace or strengthen the indigenous low frequency Microwave tower at Abohar in District Ferozepore and to install another tower at Gidderbaha in District Faridkot to check flactuations in STD and ISD service;

(b) if so, what measures have been taken to expedite the work; and

(c) what are the reasons that the authorities have not so far bothered to remove this genuine grievance of the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The existing Microwave system is being replaced by a Digital Microwave system.

(b) and (c) The infrastructure for the new system has been completed. Equipment for the digital microwave system is expected to become available in 1993-94. On receipt of the equipment, this system will be commissioned.

New Telephone connections at Abohar

1585. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the applications for new telephone connections at Abohar have not been attended to during the current financial year as the Electronic Exchange had exhausted its capacity;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken for the expansion of the said exchange; and

(c) what are the reasons that OYT seekers have not been given telephone connections in this fast growing industrial town ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 5.5K Main E-10B stands allotted for the year 1993-94.

(c) Present exchange is fully loaded.

Opening of Telecommunication Network in Rural Areas to Private Sector

1586. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to open the area of rural tele-communication network to the Private Sector, and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what is the estimated fund requirement for providing tele-communication facility to each village during the Eighth Five Year Plan together with the number of villages that will be provided telephone facilities during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir. The proposal is under consideration. DOT proposes to open the virgin rural areas for private sector participation. Details are being worked out.

(b) During Eighth Plan it is proposed to cover all 2,32,054 Panchayat Villages and another 1.5 lakh villages only for provision of public telephones. The funds requirement for this is estimated to be